

Waukewan and Winona Watershed Protective Association

P.O. Box 451, Meredith, NH 03253

Website: WWWPA.org

Email: info@wwwpa.org

An Environmental Organization Protecting the Waukewan and Winona Watershed

Volume 8, Issue 2: Spring/Summer 2020

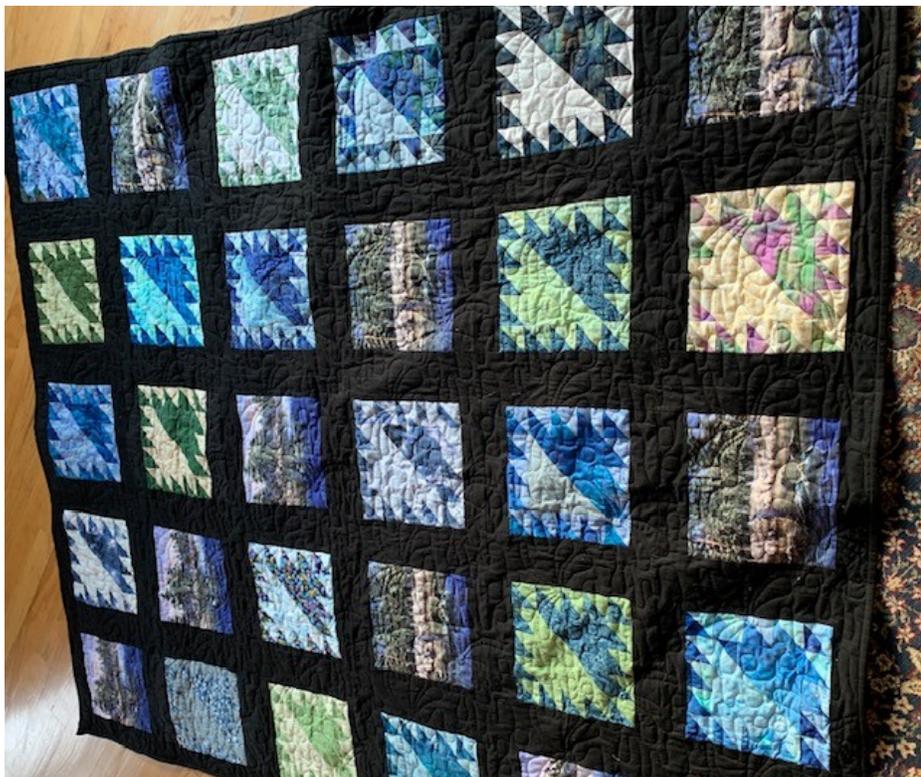


Photo by Linda Heminway

Loon Preservation Committee Raffle

By Jamie Heminway

Whenever loons are mentioned to a lake-lubber in the state of New Hampshire, the inevitable answer is, "Oh, I love the loons!" Everyone adores these majestic birds whose eerie cry makes up so many of our memories of lake life. Perhaps no one loves loons more than the members of the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) in Moultonborough.

As well as attending the LPC's events throughout the summer (visit www.loon.org for a full events calendar), one of the best ways to ensure that the LPC is able to continue its work helping the loons of New Hampshire and educating the public about how they can be involved, is to pur-

chase tickets for their 45th Anniversary Raffle.

One of the coveted raffle prizes is a quilt (pictured) lovingly sewn and donated by our very own WWWPA member, Linda Heminway. Winners could also receive an 11 foot Old Town Kayak donated by Irwin Marine, a stained glass loon portrait, or an oil painting by Robert Emory titled "Feeding the Chick" that depicts a loon parent and chick on the rippling waters of a lake.

Those interested in purchasing tickets can call the Loon Center at (603) 476-5666 to request tickets and pay over the phone. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. The drawing for the winner will be held at the Loon Center in Moultonborough on December 5th, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Articles in this Issue

- ◆ Legislation Update
- ◆ Septic Etiquette
- ◆ Spring at the Lake: COVID-19 Style
- ◆ Lake Waukewan Lake Hosting Program
- ◆ Lake Winona Loons
- ◆ Loon Committee Raffle

Help support WWWPA!

This has been a challenging time for many nonprofit organizations trying to keep up with their programs and volunteer work. We ask that you renew your dues and consider donating a few extra dollars to help us continue our work. Since our inception, dues have remained at \$35.00. If you wish to send your dues now, please mail them to: WWWPA, PO Box 451, Meredith, NH, 03253.

We are also asking for people who are not members to consider joining our group. We will be sending out an email directly to members and nonmembers to renew or join WWWPA. If you are not a member yet, we will attach a member application in the email. Thank you to those generous individuals who have been so supportive to WWWPA currently and in the past. We truly appreciate your hard work and gifts to our organization.

Sharon O'Donnell
Co-Chair, WWWPA

Waukewan and Winona Watershed Protective Association

P.O. Box 451, Meredith, NH 03253

Website: WWWPA.org

Email: info@wwwpa.org

An Environmental Organization Protecting the Waukewan and Winona Watershed

Spring at the Lake: COVID-19 Style

By Deb Finch

It was during spring break, March 9th, at the University of Massachusetts Lowell when our chancellor announced that the school would not re-open the following Monday and all classes would transition to virtual/online education. With less than 10 days' notice, our IT team helped put over 1600 NEW classes into BlackBoard, the online learning platform, for a total of 3400 classes being taught online. When I think back to it, I cannot even imagine how they got it done, especially for those who had never taught online before!

Luckily, I had already been using BlackBoard for my students, and while it was definitely a transition, I was able to make it work and help others get set up to run their classes. And really, could I have asked for anything better? Spring at the lake, without interruption? Well, yes, COVID-19... it was definitely not what I was expecting. Still, to be able to be here and cross country ski in the afternoons, sit by the fire watching the wind blow across the lake, and seeing the lake start to break up and return to open water was definitely a highlight.

One of the things that I appreciate about the lake in the colder months is how it is peaceful and

beautiful. When the lake first freezes over, I am always dreading the onslaught of winter, and the cold days and dark nights as the daylight shrinks. However, there are the winter birds, of course! We had a veritable onslaught of birds this year, though they were later to the feeders than usual. Cardinals, tufted titmouse, chickadees (my favorite), finches, downy and hairy woodpeckers, and many more, seem to really appreciate the bounty put out for them. Up and down the shore neighbors report in on what they've seen feeding. It's a great sense of community when we share the experience together.

The best part of being here in March-April is watching the ice break up. This year it seemed to come later but move more quickly. I'm near the river, so it opens up early down here, and is always greeted by a variety of ducks and geese looking for an open source. Last year the loons arrived to very little open space and seemed to say, "What the heck? Where are we supposed to land?" This year when they arrived, they had no trouble finding open water. There are lots of common and hooded mergansers, and now I get to watch them swim along with their little ones in a line behind.

Because of COVID19, lights began to appear along the shore at night,



Photo by Deb Finch

as those who were working remotely discovered that they could be the lake and do that, too! It's always a comfort at night to see the presence of others at the lake for me. While shopping, which I used to enjoy, became something to dread, there were little bright spots. The sound of the waves lapping the shore again... you forget how noisy it is after the quiet of the winter! This spring we were treated to endless days of winds roaring down the Snake River and into the open area. Even the birds seemed to realize this was different and didn't appear at the feeders on those windy days.

What have you seen and noticed at the lake this year? Maybe, instead of "canceling" 2020, we can reflect on the beauty that we've had a chance to see everything in a different light. Summer is here!

Waukewan and Winona Watershed Protective Association

P.O. Box 451, Meredith, NH 03253

Website: WWWPA.org

Email: info@wwwpa.org

An Environmental Organization Protecting the Waukewan and Winona Watershed

Legislation Updates for Our Lakes

By Sharon O'Donnell

New Hampshire House Bill 1124 looks at increasing the area of a wetland in terms of eligibility for being a prime wetland designation. Wetland designations protect wildlife habitats and water quality as well as reducing the impacts of floods.

Senate Bill 491 addresses water quality on our shorelines. It proposes to increase the natural buffer which was set in place from 25% to 50%. This would include tracts of land larger than 1/2 acre. It would help to reduce polluted runoff into our lakes. On March 5, 2020 the senate bill was tabled and set aside for now. Perhaps in the next legislative session it will be addressed again. It appears that there is significant opposition to this bill. The New Hampshire Lakes organization is continuing to persevere in their efforts to improve the woodland buffer standards in order to protect lake water quality.

Senate Bill 713-FN looks at reducing road salt and winter maintenance of New Hampshire's paved roads. The bill would expand the Green SnowPro program to cities and towns, as it is only available now for commercial participation. This program reduces the impact on water resources and lakes. It proposes to use less salt on parking lots, roads and sidewalks in hoping these proposed practices will reduce harmful effects to our water resources.

I am a member of the New Hampshire Lakes organization and review their quarterly publications regularly. Their Spring 2020 issue reviewed the aforementioned legislative bills and I thought it would be helpful to pass along a synopsis to our members. If you would like additional information on these bills, please contact the New Hampshire Lakes Association.

2020 Lake Host Update

By Sharon O'Donnell and Anne Sayers

On Saturday, June 20, 2020 a lake host training was held at Tim Whiting's home for the Lake Waukewan lake host program. Several experienced volunteers attended and learned of the updates regarding how the COVID 19 pandemic will impact the program. This year there will be no handouts given to the boaters and volunteers must wear a mask around people they interact with. Volunteers are required to fill out a health form every week and are required to review the training manual. There will be no lake host sign put out by the town dock this year. Anne Sayers is in charge of the scheduling for the volunteers.

The good news is that Meredith contributed \$1500 to the Waukewan lake host program to assist in paying for the weekend host volunteers who cover Friday through Sunday and holidays. The volunteers who attended the training are members of several different lake organizations in our area. WWWPA has four members who will serve as volunteer lake hosts and they are as follows: Sharon O'Donnell, Deb Corr, Anne Sayers, and Deborah Finch. Thank you so much to our members who are doing their part to help protect our beautiful Lake Waukewan from invasive species!

Manager Needed for Winona Lake Host Program

By Nora Foster

Due to personal reasons, Nora Foster is unable to manage Lake Winona's Lake Host Program in 2020. We are seeking someone to resume this program as either a volunteer or paid position. The LWIA was awarded a grant from NH Lakes to continue the program and to hire paid Lake Hosts. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Nora at 603-677-6281.



Photo by Deb Corr

Waukewan and Winona Watershed Protective Association

P.O. Box 451, Meredith, NH 03253

Website: WWWPA.org

Email: info@wwwpa.org

An Environmental Organization Protecting the Waukewan and Winona Watershed

Lake Winona Loon Update

By Linda Heminway

Waiting. As I write this, we are waiting. It is a quiet time for the loons, and our pair has been faithfully watching over the nest and incubating. Photo evidence shows that this is the same pair (due to documentation of their bands) that has nested these last 4 years at Winona.

Since banding, we know this same pair has been here for many years. We have evidence there is at least one egg on the loon nest raft on Lake Winona. So far, we have been unable to get photo evidence of an additional egg, if one exists. This is the 4th year that we have been a field volunteers for the Loon Preservation Committee and each season has brought different challenges. Yet, we have had successes. As far as we know, 4 loon chicks survived. Previous to 2017, it had been at least 60 years since a chick was hatched and survived at Lake Winona. We had a day last week where we nearly lost the egg. High winds and waves washed over the nest. At one point in time the egg was sitting on the almost bare nest raft without any grasses, twigs, etc. to protect it. It nearly rolled off. The loons held on and we gathered more nesting material twice in one day and brought it to the nest raft. Once, the loons distributed it and it washed off again, and we are glad to say that the second time, it "held". Since that day, the loons have been constant on the nest raft. They have a good nest "bowl." Warning signs

are anchored near the nest, along with buoys.

We suspect a hawk's nest on the Winona Road side of the lake and note a few Bald Eagles have been fighting with the hawks for territory. We worry that our loons, and a potential chick may be impacted by the presence of the eagles. However, this is "nature" and we have no control other than watching over the nest raft as best we can and being hopeful.

Loon Center biologists have come twice to the lake after communications from us with regard to the nest raft and how the egg was endangered. We all have concerns over wind and waves and we plan some modifications to the raft for next year.

We are thankful to have the opportunity to help preserve our beautiful loons and help assure that future residents of Lake Winona, and other area lakes, will see and hear these aquatic birds in the future.

Editor's Note: As of June 29th, the Winona loons lost their egg. It is late for them to attempt to re-nest, but we remain hopeful.



Photo by Linda Heminway

Who are the members of our board?

Interested in writing an article for our newsletter? Contact Sharon O'Donnell (info below).

Dave Reilly, Co-Chairman
rrillydave@aol.com

Bea Thibeault, Secretary
beatricetbo@gmail.com

Deb Finch, Director
ddfinch@comcast.net

Peter, Treasurer
ptallman@metrocast.net

Sharon O'Donnell, Co-Chairman
sharonptmc@aol.com

Copyright Notice: The contents of this newsletter is copyright of the owners of the content herein.

Waukewan and Winona Watershed Protective Association

P.O. Box 451, Meredith, NH 03253

Website: WWWPA.org

Email: info@wwwpa.org

An Environmental Organization Protecting the Waukewan and Winona Watershed

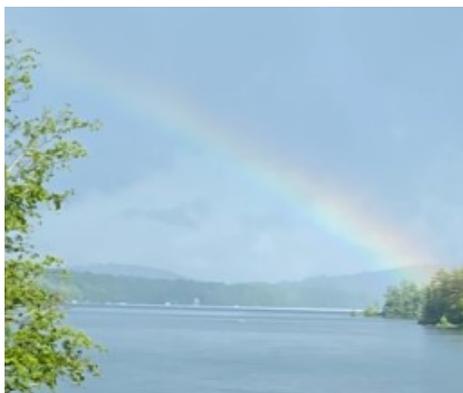


Photo by Sharon O'Donnell

Intro to Septic Etiquette List

By Deb Corr

Summer is upon us again, and it goes without saying that this one will be memorable due to the many challenges we are facing because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Quarantining has weighed heavily on most of us. Getting back to our beloved homes on our lakes and ponds brings a feeling of normalcy and stability in the midst of stress. We celebrate the outdoors with its fresh air and lots of sunshine!

It is easy to forget, however, that our lakes and ponds are fragile resources and deserve our protection and oversight. With the

exception of a small number of cottages and homes on the Meredith end of Lake Waukewan, we all have our own septic systems and drinking water sources.

The below list is a reprint from our Summer 2014 newsletter. It can serve as a reminder to homeowners and guests alike about actions to take to monitor septic system care and use. We hope you will find it helpful and might even consider printing it so you can a copy up in your cottage or house as a reminder of what it takes to practice good Septic System Etiquette.

Do's:

1. Have your septic system inspected so that you know its condition.
2. Have your septic system pumped every three to five years or more often if you use your house more frequently than you have in the past or if you decide to rent your home.
3. Know the location of your septic system and leach field. Keep a map of the area and also keep a record of inspections and pumpings.

4. Plant grass – not trees or shrubs – on your leach field to help hold the field in place.
5. Install water-saving devices in showerheads, toilets, and faucets.
6. Repair leaking faucets.
7. Run dishwashers and washing machines only when full.
8. Divert water from roof drains, driveways, and hillsides away from your septic system and leach field.

Don'ts:

1. Do not pour hazardous chemicals, plants, thinners, anti-freeze, pesticides, etc. down the drain or into toilets.
2. Do not plant trees within 30 feet of your septic system or leach field.
3. Do not park cars on your leach field or septic system. This may cause a collapse.
4. Do not allow anyone to repair or pump your system unless they are a licensed professional.
5. Do not flush wipes of any kind! Only flush toilet paper down the toilet.

Who are the members of our board?

Dave Reilly, Co-Chairman
rreillydave@aol.com

Bea Thibeault, Secretary
beatricetbo@gmail.com

Deb Finch, Director
ddfinch@comcast.net

Peter Tallman, Treasurer
ptallman@metrocast.net

Sharon O'Donnell, Co-Chairman
sharonptmc@aol.com